

News Release

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COUNTY RECEIVES \$1.6 MILLION CHECK FROM MATAN COMPANIES TO MOVE URBANA MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT FORWARD

FREDERICK, MD – Matan Companies today presented a check for \$1,600,000 to Frederick County Treasurer Diane Fox as payment associated with the planned fit-out for Urbana Middle School, as required in an Adequate Public Facilities letter of understanding for the Urban Green Project.

Payment was required upon application for the first residential building permit or by July 1, 2014, and Matan hand delivered the check to the county before the deadline.

Matan Companies Principal Mark Matan said, "We're happy to work with the county to help forward fund the needed money to start the Urbana Middle school expansion. Our company is vested in the community, our employees live in this community and we very much care about the success of this community."

Improvements to the middle school were scheduled for 2017, but the developer's contribution will move it two years sooner in the county's Capital Improvements Program for construction projects. The contribution will help add 300 seats to the school that is over 120 percent capacity. Matan offered the payment to aid in financing the expansion in order to facilitate a multifamily residential project on the Giesler property along MD 355 in Urbana. The commitment for the contribution to the middle school allowed the project to be approved and to move forward.

President Blaine Young of the Frederick Board of County Commissioners commented, "We've been working with the development community to improve much needed infrastructure. In this instance, it is proven that they are part of the solution, not part of the problem. We look forward to this project getting underway as soon as possible to relieve the overcrowding in Urbana Middle School."

According to Frederick County Public Schools, this project will fit out what is now an unfinished lower level floor at Urbana Middle School. The school opened in 2006 and was designed so that this lower level could be built out quickly when student enrollments increased. The project will increase student capacity of the building from 600 to 900 students. For 2013-14 the school has 767 students enrolled. The project will be funded entirely with local county funds and funds contributed by a developer. The project is anticipated to be complete and ready for use for the 2015-16 school year.

For more information, contact Community Development Division Director Gary Hessong at 301-600-1172 or via e-mail at ghessong@FrederickCountyMD.gov.